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PUBLIC NOTICE

**Legal Notice of Opportunity to Comment**

USDA – Forest Service – Ashley National Forest  
Duchesne Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah

South Unit Oil and Gas Development Project  
65 Day Comment Period DEIS

Opportunity to Comment on the South Unit Oil and Gas Development Project

The Forest Service, Duchesne Ranger District, Ashley National Forest, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the South Unit Oil and Gas Development Project. The purpose of this project is to drill up to 400 oil and gas wells, within a 25,900 acre area. The bulk of the proposed development would occur on the northeastern end of the South Unit, between Sowers Canyon and Left Fork Antelope Canyon, within Townships T6S-R5W and T6S R4W, Uintah Special Meridian. Well pad construction would involve about 2.5 acres of surface disturbance per well pad. Approximately 100 miles of new access roads would be needed to reach the proposed well pad sites, in addition to upgrading approximately 21 miles of existing roads. The proposal calls for a 20-year construction and drilling period.

This DEIS serve to disclose and compare the effects of implementing the alternatives. Four alternatives are evaluated. The proposed action descriptions and other information are available for review at Duchesne Ranger District, 85 West Main, Duchesne, UT. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from David Herron, Geologist, (435) 781-5218 or dherron@fs.fed.us.

The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official, John Kirkaldie, District Ranger. Those who provide substantive comments during this comment period are eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations.

**How to Comment and Timeframe**

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this analysis will be accepted for 60 calendar days following the publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The publication date in the Federal register is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this analysis. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Written comments must be submitted to David Herron, Project Leader, Duchesne Ranger District, 85 West Main PO Box 981, Duchesne, UT, 84021. The office business hours for

those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The number to submit comments by fax is (435) 781-5215.

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office to David Herron during normal business hours via telephone (435) 781-5218 or in person, or at an official agency function (i.e. public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as email message, plain text (.txt) rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-intermt-n-ashley-[duchese@fs.fed.us](mailto:duchese@fs.fed.us), use "Berry Oil and Gas" in the subject line. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely comments will have eligibility to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to appeal must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.